

DRAFT EAngel/amg 7-11-67

Dear Mr. Bannerman:

We have carefully reviewed your letter of \_\_\_\_\_ regarding proposed use by the Central Intelligence Agency of our vault space in the Washington National Records Center at Suitland, Maryland. You recognize, of course, that the proposed informal Memorandum of Understanding is considerably different from the plans discussed by our agency and the intelligence community in 1964 and 1965.

At that time the intelligence community, including CIA, asked our Service, representing GSA, if vault space could be made available in our new records center building in Suitland for storing inactive intelligence files. The proposal was that such files would be accessioned in the usual manner by the Center, would be serviced by GSA personnel, and would be in effect an expansion of the service already being rendered by the Center to several intelligence agencies. Only records of the NSA, because of their particular sensitivity, would be specially compartmented and controlled, and even in this case we were assured that the records would be rarely referred to by NSA personnel who would come to the Center for that specific purpose. In fact, the original intention to which we agreed was for a central records facility to store and service complete sets of intelligence materials.

In recent conversations, representatives of your office proposed that CIA records be stored behind an expanded metal personnel barrier, which,

On file GSA release instructions apply.

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it was hoped, could be eventually dispensed with in accordance with the original intelligence proposal. We reluctantly agreed to this temporary measure.

Your representatives also proposed that CIA records be serviced only by CIA employees stationed within the proposed CIA compartment. We objected on the grounds that this was completely contrary to the original proposal and would in effect establish within our records center another records center with records and personnel not under our control. Instead we suggested that CIA records personnel be transferred, or, less desirably, be detailed, to GSA to service CIA records and records of other agencies in the vault.

Your current letter revives the proposal for CIA center physically within our Suitland Center but completely independent as to vault space, records, and personnel. We regret that we cannot agree to this proposal. We must use our records center space, and particularly our vault space which is great demand, for classified records which agencies are willing to transfer to the center. We have no excess space to assign outright to other agencies.

We are aware that your agency has need for records storage space and has been planning for several years on transferring records to our Suitland Center. We are still ready to receive and service the records in accordance with the original proposal. If you are not prepared to do this, and need vault space while your own facilities are being constructed, we are willing

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to consider making available on a temporary basis, say two or three years, a compartmented area for CIA records and personnel along the general lines of your recent letter. Any CIA personnel having access to such a compartment within our vault would, of course, require security clearance by GSA.

If you are interested in negotiating an arrangement of this sort I suggest that you have your representative get in touch with Herbert E. Angel, Assistant Archivist for Federal Records Centers.

Sincerely yours,